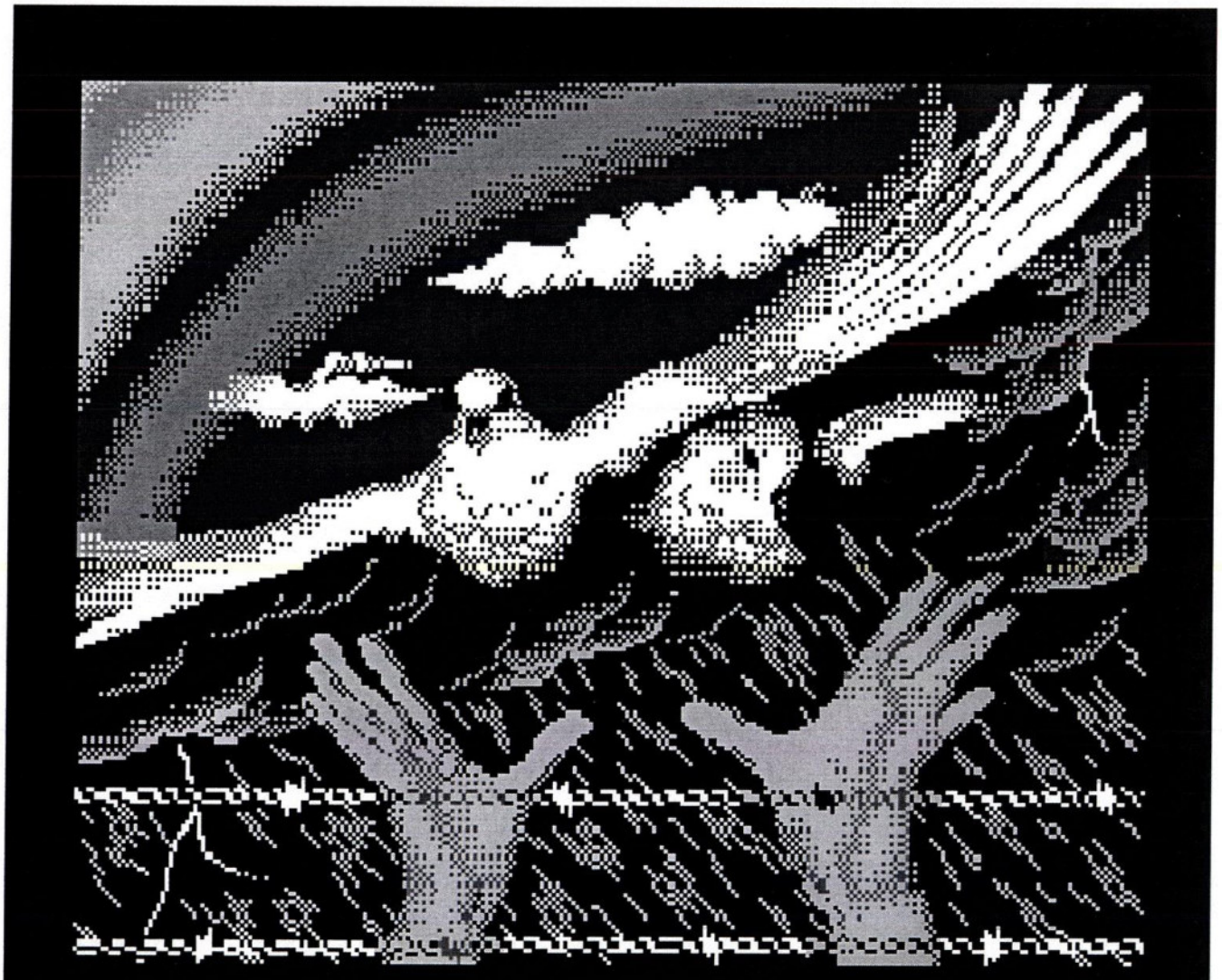
Suc-Session

YOUR SPECTRUM - MAGAZIN

Issue 01/2003 (194) January/February 2003



Picture: "Freedom" from Gas 13

The world is breathless: Will the Suc-Session keep what it promissed?

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Publisher

The Spectrum-User-Club, formally known as the Spectrum-User-Club Wuppertal, is the oldest existing Spectrum-Club in Germany, the ASC is the only Spectrum-Club in Austria. Since 1998 the Club-Magazine SUC-SESSION and SCENE+ have been sent together to all club members. They are compiled from contributions produced by the editor(s) as well as the readers. We call on all readers to send in their contributions as text files on cassette, +D, Opus, MB02 or MS-DOS (Word or pure Text files) or handwritten, per e-mail or printed on paper to us.

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How can you become a Member

Membership is basically free but the main services, the clubs magazine SUC-SESSION and SCENE+ can be subscribed to individually or together.

The Price:	Single issue	Yearly subscription (6x)
1) SUC-Session Magazine	3,00 Euro	16,00 Euro
2) SUC-Session Magazine as a PDF-Download	1,50 Euro	8,00 Euro
3) SCENE+ Disk-magazine	2,50 Euro	12,00 Euro
4) SCENE+ on Cassette	3,50 Euro	18,00 Euro
5) SCENE+ as a TAP-Download	1,50 Euro	8,00 Euro
6) Combi-packet SUC-Session & SCENE+ Disk	5,00 Euro	26,00 Euro
7) Combi-packet SUC-Session & SCENE + Tape	5,50 Euro	28,00 Euro

Our magazines can be mixed in any combination you want it is only important to tell us exactly what you want. Orders for our Download-Service should be sent by E-mail to:sintech@online.de.Your can pay by Cheque(Euro), Paypal or Bank-transfer.Account Nr.3205069, Sort-code 380 707 24. As reason for the payment please include the information : Packetnumber(s), for example Nr. 6 or 2 and 5 or whatever you want to order.

New members who are ordering the Diskette version of SCENE+ should state the required format, we have available MB02+, Opus, +D und now also D80/Didaktik. If you are ordering additional Disk's or Cassettes together with a Combi-Packet then the price for these must be added to the Subscription number. Any questions should simply contact us per E-mail or under: 0049-711-775033.

SCENE+ 55

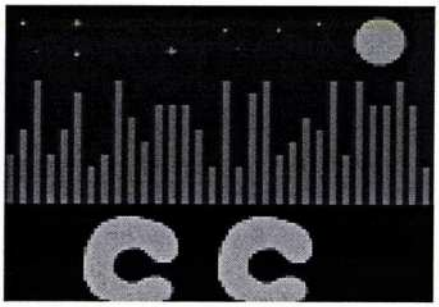
Contents

Mirko has searched the whole Spectrum-World for further interesting programs for you. Do you like the new look? And the menu? Sure, it can still get improved, but that´s the good thing: You can always improve. But we need your comments.

These programs we present you this time:

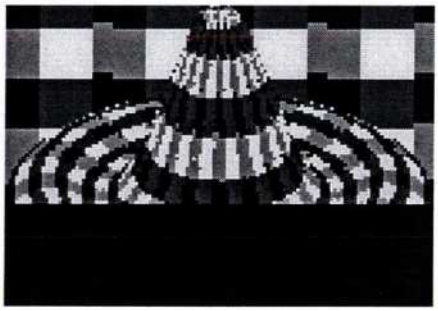
Demos:
Cannonball

CC Fun

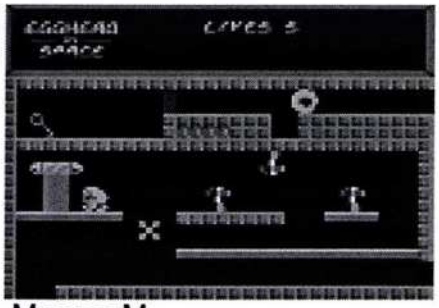


Chaos
DedSMem POS-Intro
Happy99
Gift4CRM
Gift4GMikeFollin
Bad Of Bad 1

Intros:
Penta Hooy
Circles 512
Dead Car
Nop 512



Games:
Egghead in Space



MazezaM
Numbers
Willy The Bug Slayer

Music:
Millenium Player

Grafik:
Millenium Grafix

Attention:
Please notice the text-instructions on the SCENE+, Very often there are usefull hints written directly in the disk-magazin. Many programs, especially demos should also run in the so known "USR 0"-Mode, which means, on a 128k computer type in USR 0 in 128k Mode. This will switch the computer in a special 48k Mode with 128k Ram. Some programs need more memory than the 48k Spectrum has, so they can run only, if you have a computer with 128k.

Preface

So, almost finished. As I'm writing these lines then the major part of the work is done and all of the other texts have been written. It wasn't easy this time and that is also the reason for the late appearance of this first issue for this year.

Up until the end of February I had received almost no articles and it was only at the beginning of March that I began to get articles from a number of members so that I suddenly had almost too much material. But that is no bad thing, it meant that I could begin the next issue almost immediately, and so catch up on some of the lost time.

The SUC-Session of course lives from what the readers send in. When nothing is sent then the magazine can't appear. Never the less I would like to thank all of those who have helped in the creation of this issue, and in general I'm very satisfied with the variety of themes covered. I would just like here to say please send me your articles as quickly as possible and in large numbers so that I can plan in advance and not end up in a stress situation.

It's really super that even today we are still seeing the appearance of new hardware and software projects. Though I have to admit that the ever increasing number of emulators and tools on the PC are allowing ever more people to realise projects which were previously gathering dust in the drawer. The Internet does what it does best and allows the rapid dissemination of software and information, from this view point the Spectrum world today looks healthier than it did 5 years ago.

I'm especially glad that the membership numbers for our club have been able to profit from this situation. The SUC-Session has of course been available here in Germany for a number of years but then Germany is not really a classic Spectrum country. It's important that our magazine becomes known in other countries such as Great Britain, Spain and the Czech Republic, countries where the Spectrum played a leading role, while here in Germany the C-64 was making the running.

Other magazines are also profiting from today's possibilities, that is magazines such as ZX DIGEST, RETRO REVIEW or ZXF all of which appear regularly, whereas in the past we have seen so many magazines come and go.

We can only continue to hope that the progress continues, I'd like to describe it using the words of a thüringischen Spectrum-Friend who said: „the Spectrum, it's something you feel in your heart".

I hope that all of the super subjects that we are covering this month won't cause anyone to have a heart attack.

Have fun with this issue

Thomas

Clubnews – important -

At this point I would like to give you some information about the club.

Firstly I have marked the title as IMPORTANT, because I sometimes have the impression that my words may just be skipped over. This is the only way that I can explain for example, that my request in the preface of the last issue has been totally ignored. I asked you to support the club and take part in the vote for the best program of the year. I'd rather not say just how few followed my request but in any case it was far too few.

We are a community of Spectrum users. A number of users have made the effort to create new programs, investing a not inconsiderable amount of the free time in the projects The least that they could expect is that they would receive some sort of recognition for their efforts. We don't want to criticise any of the programs here we simply want to choose a winner. I understand when here in Germany no-one wants to take part in the parliamentary elections, but I don't understand it when a Spectrum user isn't prepared to support the work of a fellow user. This ignorance is almost an insult to all those who have made such a stupendous effort.

But I don't just want to shake up those who have subscribed to SCENE+ which is the basis for this vote. Even those of you who have only subscribe to SUC-Session could be more active. This issue has been produced by a very small number of people.. and that despite the fact that there are 80 people in the club. One has to ask why it is always the same people who provide articles for the magazine.
With „News in brief" und „Stars on the Internet" I have loaded myself with enough complicated columns so that I only have limited time to write other articles. I am dependant on your support. I don't expect too much from the readers and I'm more than willing to do my share of the work. But it must be possible for every reader to write a few lines at least once a year. With 6 issues a year and 80 readers then each issue should have input from 13 or 14 readers with short letters, articles or opinions or at least a vote for the program of the year. I think that should be possible for everyone.

Mirko and I put in more time for one issue of the magazine than most of you do in 10 years (*The English translation takes more than a few hours too – Ian)*. And that is no exaggeration. To ask for one item a year, isn't too much, is it ?

A further piece of information: For a number of years now the club has had it's on bank account and so it isn't necessary anymore to transfer money to the Sintech account. Also the subscription for the year 2002 was set at 26 Euro's. There are still some readers with a standing order for 50,00DM. I would like to ask all readers to update their standing orders. Also readers who pay by PAYPAL, I would like to remind them that PAYPAL charges 4% + 30 Cents for each transaction and it would be nice if you could include this charge in your membership fee, so that we really do get the full subscription.

So, I've complained enough, it's time to look at the positive, and that is that we still exist, that there is still enough new material to fill the pages of the magazine and that we still have hope that things will get... better and easier especially for Mirko and myself, as we have to produce the magazine in a state of continual stress.

Thomas

Readers Letters

So let's get started, though at the start of the year the number of letters was rather low. „Hello we are still here". So leave the other things to one side and spend some time on your club. We need your feedback!

OK, OK there were a couple of reports.

The first was a reference to the last PDF Download. Because something went wrong with it. Firstly the files were really big, 2 Files each having 10 MB. Then we didn't have any more room on the server and then as we finally found some space (thanks Martijn van der Heide from WOS) the pack program wasn't working anymore.

Hello Herr Eberle,
unfortunately I can't unpack part 2 of the magazine number 193. Error report:" Can't open file. It seems as if it's not a valid archive". Downloading it again produced the same result.
It would seem worthwhile to find out why the PDF file was so large. With my somewhat slow connection it took over an hour and that's without taking into account the second download. Unfortunately I can't help.
And lastly lot's of success in 2003.
Manfred

Hallo Manfred,
I'm going to simply use the ‚Du' form in this letter rather than the ‚Sie' form for ‚you' as we have had the chance to get to know each other personally. Anyway our English readers won't be able to differenciate between ‚Du' and ‚Sie' (hello Ian, I'm really interested in how you are going to translate 'Du'...), (*Oh Boy I knew this problem would come up sooner or later, I think it's about time all those English readers out there learnt to speak German then I wouldn't have to explain it..... Anyway you English speakers have it easy just saying 'you' to everyone, the German speakers are in a minefield. They use 'Du'(pronounced 'doo') for close friends, family and children but 'Sie' (pronounced 'zee') for the rest, that's everyone else, now if you use 'Du' when should have used 'Sie' then the other person is likely to be very upset....and if you use 'Sie' when you should have used 'Du' then it's even worse and the person may never speak to you again... Told you it was a minefield... and if you've got a few weeks I'll explain the other mistakes you can make in German which will end your relationship with someone forever!!! - Ian).* OK, as I mentioned above, this time something went a little wrong but it should be a one time occurance. That also goes for the size of the file. If I had had more time I would have investigated further butl had the pressure of the release date. Some clever readers identified Leszeks pictures from Zlincon as being responsible. They aren't too big as JPEG files but when you convert them to PDF Format then they increase in size dramatically. I'll be more careful in the preparation of pictures in the future and when necessary I'll reduce the quality of the image rather than force the user to download excessively long files. I just hope that you didn't feel disappointed with the result after the long download times.

And now a call for help from England:
Hi Thomas,
for a short time now I've had a problem with my Plus D. Whenever I try to make a 128K snapshot then my Spectrum crashes. At the start the border blinks quite normally but then the screen just freezes. This happens even when only the Plus D is connected and no other hardware. Could this be a compatibility problem with my 128K Spectrum ?
Greetings
Liam

Hello Liam,
I can unfortunately not give you an answer to your question, because I'm simply not a Plus D specialist. I've never owned one but lot's of readers in our club use them. So here my call to our readers, can anyone help Liam? Any answers you send to the club will be forwarded on to Liam.

The next user is interested in a disk drive:
Hello,
here is Doerfler again. Do you have a Betadisk drive? This interests me greatly because it has TR-DOS. I don't know in how far I can use the Disciple demo's and games with TR-DOS, that is if it is at all possible. And is it possible to load tapes from the disk? Or bring them onto the disk in some form so that loading doesn't take so long ? Robert Doerfler

I'm afraid I don't have a Betadisk, they are very difficult to find, in my whole 18 years experience with the Spectrum I've only ever seen one once. Of course it's possible to transfer programs from tape, in fact it's very simple. That is with special software or you load the program from cassette and press a button on the Disciple. And that's it, the program is on the disk. It's called a Snapshot, no longer loved by hackers but never the less, simple.
It's possible that the Beta-Disk would have problems with the newest TR-DOS files, it is really a pre-TR-DOS version. But I don't have any experience with it, and as well as that it's a format which our club doesn't support... and the newest demo's are going to be found on our club diskette.

We also have readers in Sweden:
Hello Thomas,
firstly my apologies for not sending the article about the MB Commander. Time just seems to race by. I hope the money for my subscription arrived safely. The idea of various subscription packages is a good one. You get what you are interested in and in the format that suits you best.
As some form of compensation about the article which I haven't sent, I'm sending you here a file with a Hardware solution I am working on to connect the Amiga to a VGA monitor. I'm not really a Hardware specialist and don't have much more competence than the cat next door when it comes to electronic construction and calculations. But the layout seems to be really simple, perhaps too simple. Maybe it cold help the Spectrum users to develop a simple solution for a VGA interface.
Lastly a URL; http://www.home.sol.se/amiga/

There are a lot of Spectrum hardware reports on this site. There are a number of projects such as a Regulator to help reduce the temperature inside the Spectrum case, which helps to slow down the aging of the keyboard membrane.
OK, all that I now need is someone who can combine the possibilities of Discobolos and MB Commander, and perhaps add some mouse support...and perhaps also a TZX-Player for the MAC OS...Lots of greetings
Björn

Hallo Björn,
you don't need to apologise, if you send something just 1 x in a year that is still more than half of the readers, who send absolutely nothing and where I have to ask myself if they even read the magazine. But as I've said there are those who do something for the magazine so that it can continue to exist. I've printed you letter here and we have also used your VGA article and lastly we will put the Spectrum site that you have mentioned under the magnifying glass. So you have done something for 3 different areas of the magazine, amazing how simple it can be. I'm hoping that the VGA- Article will produce some resonance, because we now have a time when it's difficult to get RGB monitors and this really is an alternative for the future, especially as there is almost always a PC in every household and with it of course a VGA-Monitor.
The VGA-Box supplied by SINTECH transforms the composite video signal into a VGA one and a solution which would use the RGB signals would be interesting especially the quality of the picture, especially as the Spectrum +2A and +3 don't have composite video signal on the RGB socket.
As to your wishes well we should just be happy we have the MB-Commander. The MB02is a super diskette interface but there are not many users. There were only between 50-70 interfaces built, but you can see that they are real Spectrum freaks by the amazing amount of software which they have already created. This doesn't mean that it's not possible to improve on the MB-Commander, as far as I know further versions are planned. As to the TZX-Player for the MAC OS...Oh, ah, I really can't help you there...

Christof Odenthal is one of those readers who regularly writes with good ideas:
Hello Thomas,
Yesterday, I got a copy of the magazine „Funkamateur" – with the article about Retro-Computing (incl. SinTech and my photo). It's not bad, or? A super advertisement for your shop, they only need to mention our club a bit more clearly.
How's it going with Mirkos Scene-Disk? Will he manage it before Christmas? If he has problems with his Menu program than I'm more than happy if he want's to ask me for some suggestions.
Now for something else: Here at my company there are about 3000 people , perhaps it's possible to do a bit of advertising for our club? There is a glass cabinet in the canteen where we could possibly have something (I'll have to ask). It would be best in German and English, as we have a many employees from other countries (England, Italy, Spain, France). It should include a picture of the Speccy, for the recognition effect. We could create a suitable placard together (with information about the English edition of SUC-Session). Perhaps it will really help to find new members. It's a possibility or ?
Greetings, Christof

Hello Christof,
yes, well at least we were in the magazine Funkamateur. It hasn't produced any noticeable effect, at least no one has sent any questions concerning this article and there has been no real change in the retro business. As for Mirko: he did manage it. Yes, beat him up. He just sits around twiddling his thumbs.... but seriously: Don't ask what the club can do for you, but ask what you can do for the club! Mirko is always in need of help, for that matter so am I. We are just too busy to ask for help ourselves. But it's really simple: I need articles (how's it looking with your article about the Soundsampler, Christof????) and Mirko needs Software, and when possible with a description. That would help us a lot. When Mirko has to search for programs himself on the web and when I have to search for content for an article then it takes 2-3 times longer to produce the magazine as when the members send us what we need. Speaking hypothetically if everyone sent 1 program and 1 article in a year then we would have more articles as we had in previous years.... so pull yourself up by your bootlaces...
OK, I've gone off at a tangent, advertising for the club is always good. A placard in the firm is a really good idea, but for it to have any real effect it is important to have a Spectrum photo included in it. When someone reads the word Spectrum today then he doesn't automatically think of our 8 bitter, though those who have one maybe would. But do some advertising with your Spectrum friends. I'm always bumping into users in forums and news groups, who I know of through the club. If you are exchanging information with another user then it would be good to mention our club. The more readers we have the greater the chance that a reader will write a letter or send an article.

The VGA-Box has awaked interest:
Hello Thomas,
I hope you had a really happy Christmas. But on to the subject of my letter. I enjoyed reading the newest issue of your club-news. Especially the article about the VGA-Box awakened my interest especially as I have been trying for a long time to connect my old 8 and 16 bitters to a modern flat screen display or at least to connect them to an SVGA-Monitor.
For the Amiga and Atari ST there are at least some solutions on offer in the form of scan doublers which increase the 15Khz PAL signal up to 30Khz through doubling the number of lines but this solution only works with older VGA monitors and not at all with TFT displays. Some time ago I did get hold of something called a „JAM-Device". This promised to provide a universal connection for all devices with a Composite video output to an SVGA or TFT screen. The result was somewhat less than spectacular. It didn't work at all with a TFT display, it sort of worked with an SVGA monitor but with a rubbish picture quality. I think the main reason for this miserable performance was the horizontal synchronisation with 50Khz.,where TFT´s and most SVGA's need 60 Khz. Have you produced the ultimate solution ??? If it's possible to connect My Spectrum to a 15 inch TFT display with your VGA-Box then please accept this letter as an order and send me one
with friendly greetings from Hamburg, Boris

Hello Boris,
as you now know the VGA-Box has the same problem as the JAM device which you mention. In other words no problem with VGA monitors but with 60Khz SVGA and TFT monitors it simply doesn't work. I have heard of VGA-Boxes which solve this problem, but I can't yet confirm that it's true. I will keep looking in case anything comes up and this subject will continue to be discussed in the club.

We've also got readers in Italy, in fact a number of them:
Dear Thomas,
I would like to wish you and all members of the SUC a very happy New Year. I was really pleased with the Microdrive and the 5 cartridges, which I bought from you. Unfortunately I only see 3KB free memory space on the cartridges, can I do anything to increase the memory space ? I know they are 20 years old but I would be grateful for any suggestions.
With best wishes, Fabio Rizzo

Hallo Fabio,
Thankyou for the good wishes. That sounds a bit strange as it's already March but it is the first issue of this year. As to your Cartridges: Really only 3 KB? That's not very much. A cartridge should format to 80-90KB. Typically it's possible to get a couple of extra KB by lightly pressing the cartridge into the slot while it is being formatted. I think if your only getting 3KB then the read/write head could be dirty. In this case take a cotton bud and soak it in high percentage alcohol. Then rub the read/write head lightly with the soaked bud and then wait until the alcohol has evaporated. If this doesn't work then you can drink the rest of the bottle of alcohol and double the memory space but don't do this too often.

Here too a serious problem:
Hello Thomas,
I've at last got round to writing a couple of lines to the SUC. Of course I'm going to remain a loyal SUC member and I will transfer the subscription fee in the next couple of days. Thank you for sending the keyboard folia so quickly. I managed to revive two 128er's with these folia. Unfortunately with one of them the folia wasn't the only defect. There was also no sound in the TV signal. The problem was a defect in the Audio-Modulator-circuit MC1376. Unfortunately it's no longer possible to buy this circuit. Do you have an idea? Perhaps you have 128'ers which are defect and not repairable but which could be used to Christmas tree for spare parts or do you know of another source?
And now another problem: Circuits to provide a video signal on +2A and +3 are readily available. This gives you the video signal but unfortunately with a patterning on the screen. Sinclair solved this problem with the help of a bandpass filter. If I had the data I could build the filter myself. Do you have an idea? In the handbook for the 128er they simply mention that it's a TOTO7KL but no information about the winding or the capacitors needed.
Now a further question:
In the past I've built a number of +3-8Bit-HD-Interfaces and adapters so as to be able to use 3.5 inch diskette drives on the +3. Unfortunately despite the simple circuit it's a boring and time consuming job to solder everything together on a Individual-printed circuit board. It would be better if the boards could be mass produced, which of course is only possible

if there is sensible number required. Do you know if there are any other readers with a need for this board?
And lastly I'd like to take you up on your offer from the last SUC-Session and order 5 defective interfaces to be able to obtain the Spectrum plugs from them.
Are defective +D interfaces also included? Mine is defect but I don't know where I can get replacement IC's for it?
Best wishes for the new year and greetings.
Martin Arno Schmidt, Karlsruhe

Hello Martin-Arno,
I was really pleased to receive those lines from you. You've brought together quite a collection of problems. Your question about the modulator circuit and the bandpass filter I will have to pass on to the readers. I don't have any more spare parts, other than those which are sold via SINTEC, for example the Memory-IC´s. SINTECH doesn't do any repairs directly instead they are carried out by other people, who are in the main readers of this magazine. So I hope someone can help you. I'll pass on any answers to the club to Martin-Arno. As to the HD-Interface I have heard that our member Mathias Scheurer developed an board, but hasn't told us about it yet. Mathias we find out everything! So simply wait and he will certainly bring it into the public eye when it's ready.
As we are in the process of producing the +D once again, all of the spare parts for it are available. So repairing the +D should be a very big problem.

VGA VGA VGA...it remains a topic
Hello Thomas!
The colour TV is defect and the black and white gives an out of focus picture. So at the SUC-Meet in Stuttgart I had the idea to copy Norbert and ordered a Joy mate for 89,- Euros from ELV. The „Joy Mate" has a switchable VGA-, Video- and S-Video-input with a VGA-Output. Plus stereo input and output for small loudspeakers. So ideal for the TFT-Monitor from Aldi.
But it didn't work. There was no picture from the video recorder and of course nothing from the Speccy. The customer service for the monitor was of the opinion that the frequency was too high (?) The customer service from ELV thought that there was no analogue input (?) and I should ask the manufacturer. But they are in Texas. So I carried out some tests myself. The TFT monitor worked on PC's with 30Khz and 70Khz and using a normal picture tube monitor the „Joy Mate" worked fine. Aldi took the TFT monitor back.
From the report about the VGA-box I couldn't find any information about whether it should work with a TFT display or not. Do you have any experience with VGA or do you know why it didn't work for me? In other words did the VGA-Box work with a TFT display?
Perhaps I should go to a dealer with the Speccy and Joy mate and test it there. I did this 20 years ago. For "Supertape" I needed a good quality cassette recorder. I then bought it so that I could use "Supertape"I. That cassette recorder is still working today and I used it not long ago to load some of the old programs from back then.
Greetings MENSCH_MANFRED.

Hello Manfred,
Customer service for the monitor got it right, the frequency is too high. A TFT monitor has a frequency of 60Khz. Your „Joy Mate" will only work with 50Khz, just the same

as the VGA-box sold by SINTECH. At the moment there is no solution for a TFT display, but the boxes do work with a "normal" VGA Monitor. You don't need to try anything at a dealers it will work with 50Khz.
Another thing to note: The VGA-Box is not a new development, I already knew of it. I just wanted to have a good product at a low price in my offer. This you have confirmed with your mail, because the VGA-Box from SINTECH is much cheaper than the „Joy Mate" from ELV. Though as the VGA-Box just like the others works with the basic composite video signal you don't get the best picture quality that would be possible. You get the best picture quality when you use the RGB signal (for the Spectrum 128/+2/+2A/+3). You need an RGB-Monitor. Most RGB monitors also have a composite video input (ex. So they will also work with 48k Speccy's) and then the picture should be just as good or maybe better than with a VGA-Box.
I know you are a full blooded Spectrum freak. I see the VGA-Box as a solution for all of those who don't have space for Spectrum Monitor/TV next to their PC monitor on the computer table. But to buy a PC-Monitor just for the VGA-Box, well I think that's the wrong route. It costs a lot of money and doesn't give the best picture quality. I would recommend an RGB Monitor, as offered by SINTECH for 60 Euros. Even Norbert only uses his flat display as a second monitor for use when travelling to Spectrum meets, but not to use at home (at least that's what I understood).

Just a question about the PDF download from Guido Schell:
Why do you pack the PDF's a second time with ZIP? In most cases it doesn't really reduce the size by much. You are working with Pagemaker. I use it often at work. I also have the effect that sometimes PDF's are very large for no obvious reason. Perhaps it has something to do with the character set. Or the pictures haven't been compressed enough. That could be the reason when jpg's are included one time and another uses BMP or something similar. These will normally be bigger in PDF. At least that's what I think. These are just my guesses.
By the way I create PDF directly with Pagemaker via Destiller. It was included with Pagemaker. Why do you use Jaws?

Hello Guido,
the files are only zipped because of the codeword not because of the compression. I have had some good experiences with Jaws when it concerns the quality of the PDF's, better than with the Acrobat-Product. Destiller I haven't really tried it, because as I said Jaws is very good.
Do you mean that the file would have been smaller if I had only used BMP's or only JPEGS? All of the pictures together were only 500 KB, but I might be wrong. I've often noticed that after the import the picture quality wasn't good. That's why I load them into Corel Photoshop and use the copy clipboard function to put them into the magazine. Perhaps the files became larger in the copy process, but I've always done it like that and I never had a 20MB result before. Puzzling very puzzling. By the way I use Jaws because the magazine looks best that way, even with the original-Acrobat I get a lower quality result.

Andrew Owen makes reference to a readers letter from the last issue:
Hi,
I've just downloaded the latest edition of SUCsession and I find it very good. In it I saw a readers letter where they spoke of a Printer interface for the Spectrum which you were selling but I can't remember seeing it in the offer on your web site, do you have any details for it?
Greetings, Andrew

Hello Andrew, the letter was referring to a completely normal printer-interface, not a special type. I had a Kempston LPrint Interface, unfortunately it didn't work. But it shouldn't really be a problem to find a printer interface somewhere, we often get them in. Though I think that as you live in England you would probably find one easier than I.
The reader who wrote the letter has in the mean time bought an MB02 and so doesn't need a printer interface any more. I don't think you need one either, don't use have a Spectrum +3 ? or maybe not.

VGA – Box: it continues
Hello Manfred! Hello Thomas!
I would like to report on my experience with the „Joy Mate" and connection to a TFT-Display. Firstly it's important to generate a good video signal from the Speccy. This needs to be diverted before it enters the TV-Modulator and must then be fed via a matching circuit to a Cinch-(Composite-/Video-)-Socket, to connect it to the „Joy Mate" or similar adapter so that the Video-/Composite-Signal can be changed into a VGA-Signal. It is possible that each individual Speccy would need an individually tailored matching circuit. Using the circuit from Marco I get a good signal from my Speccy +2, but a Speccy 48K needs another circuit. Most PC-Monitors have an analogue input (doesn't matter whether they are cathode ray tube or TFT), so the Aldi monitor should have worked. The frequency (frame or line frequency) is only important when converting VGA to video (60Hz Frame rate). You don't get a useable picture from the S-VHS-connection of the „Joy Mate" , probably the matching components I use a not suitable for this input. Whether a video recorder would work via the „Joy Mate" I don't really know as I've not tried it. I hope that my experience are of some use.

Hello Norbert,
Yes, your experiences completely confuse me, because my TFT-Display doesn't work with the VGA box, even though it works fine with my VGA monitor using the same settings. Perhaps we really do need to collect more experiences from other people.

LCD is not the only one writing from Austria:
Hello Thomas!
Thomas Höger informed me that you can't manage to attend Forever and I have to say that that's a pity!
Still will there be a Demo from you as there was last year? That would be super! Also I thought it was a great pity that in the last issue of Scene+ there were no pictures from LCD, I did mean to send Mirko a mail about this but I just kept forgetting (or was I being lazy....?). Perhaps you can provide him with some motivation. In comparison the SUC-Session is

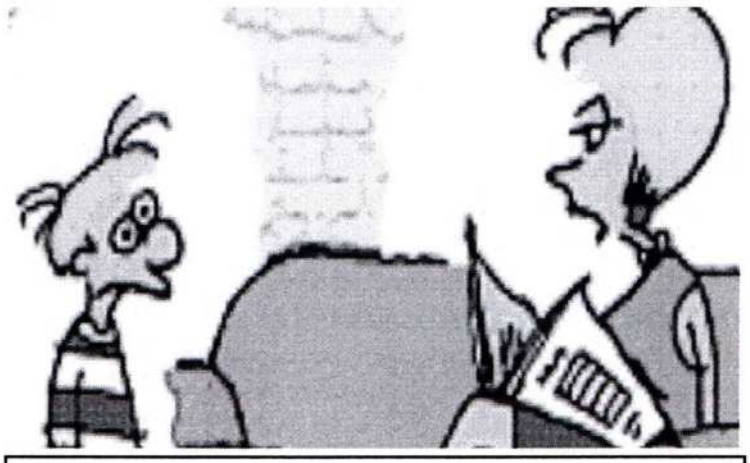
always very enjoyable, it's a pity it doesn't appear more often. I won't be able to do the article about Spectrum emulators on an Apple as I have sold my iMac. But I will willingly write a report on the Forever 2e3 Quattro after it has taken place.
Over the last few days I've been rummaging around the SINTECH-Shop and came across the IDE-Complete kit for 50,- Euro. After having a detailed discussion with LCD I knew this afternoon THAT I REALLY MUST HAVE IT!! But first I have a couple of questions for you: Do you have it in stock or will there be a long delivery delay? And does it include (at least a short understandable) English instruction sheet, because I'd like to be able to get started straight away? I can use any IDE-Hard disk, or are there restrictions? (According to LCD you can use any IDE disk, but I thought I had better ask you as you have more experience with it.)
If it's available then I would like to order it straight away, of course I need the complete price including postage and your bank account information for the transfer.
And something else: Unfortunately my +2A has ceased to function, do you sell the boards singly or only complete computers? When yes then how much would a tested board cost?

Hello Florian,
The IDE-Complete kit is really the same thing as the IDE-Kit, but it's simply already constructed. You've still got to solder it to the Bus but don't you have your MB02 any more? Because without this you don't have an operating system for it, or is there something new I don't know about. I only have a pre-release version of the operating system „MATRIX", which was never finished. This was supposed eventually to work with any disk system... but as I said as far as I know it has never been finished.
The mounting instructions are the same as those printed in the SUC-Session and are included with the interface, normally there is some software included but that won't be of much use to you...The interface is available from stock.
Now about Forever: For some reason it never seems to work out for me, then as I heard that I had exams in March I just knew it would clash with Forever. And so it has. But I would love to have a report from you. Sorry but this year there will be no Demo from the Unbelievables. We were so disappointed with the placing last year...but the other reason is: „MISSING IN FUN" was planned for the new year 1999-2000 , a sort of millennium demo. Oh well, it wasn't ready for another 2 1/2 years. So it's clear that just 1 year later we certainly don't have another Demo ready, we haven't even got enough ideas for a new Demo. I do have a board for the +2A but that costs almost as much as a complete computer. Perhaps there is a ready with a board lying about somewhere, which they no longer need. You can contact Florian via me: sintech@online.de

The mix-up is quickly cleared up:
Hi Thomas,
there has been the following mix-up: I thought that "your" interface was the divIDE Interface,
which LCD reported on in SUC-Session193. As this interface was available in two versions, one for the MB02 and one without. It had a ROM in EPROM and was operational as soon as it was connected to the expansion bus.
Yesterday I visited LCD at home and we watched the pilot film for "Enterprise" on his PC, after that we devoted our attention to the Spectrum alone. He showed me the pictures he had made at Zlincon 2002, and they showed the divIDE Hard-disk interface.

And a comment about your article in issue 193 about the VGA-Box: And I quote: „It is more difficult with the other Speccy's, you have to extract the VIDEO-signal before the modulator".
With the 48er Standard Speccy this is not necessary as you can get the signal from the expansion Bus. I think it is Pin Nr. 14 (underside from the right).I have used this signal once and as ground I used the screening on the antenna socket, I have no idea whether this is a "legal" thing to do but the picture was bright and clear.

Hello Florian,
so far as I know the divIDE interface is not yet available, but then even I don't always have the latest information. Whatever, it seems to be very interesting. It is certainly possible to extract the Video signal from the BusDas Video-Signal am Bus, but whether this is really the best was that I will leave up to the opinion of the experts, give us your opinions (*I think I can call myself an electronics expert!! There should be little difference between using the input to the modulator or the signal on the bus. But if you are not experienced then it is easier to connect to the wire going to the modulator, remember if you short out any of the pins on the bus (and they are close together) you may do permanent damage to your Speccy – Ian).*



**No, you didn´t get downloaded,
you were born.**

News in Brief

DSP Emulator
The DSP emulator is a new project to try to program a Spectrum emulator in Delphi 6. It's an Open-Source Project, this means anyone can get involved and the code is made available to everyone. You can see the first programming results at http://www.geocities.com/leniad2003/.
Source: news.raww.org

Abadia Translation
Just in time for the 15th birthday of the Spanish cult-game „La Abadia del crimen" they have announced a new version. This version should be in English and include improved graphics. The first steps have already been realised. When I think back, most users of SCENE+ who tried this program didn't understand a word of it, so a new version is seriously necessary.
Source: news.raww.org

CRONOS – New Software Label
We don't know if it is some sort of joke or whether it's real but all game programmers who have missed the last 20 years and want to can sell their software to the new Software label „CRONOS". This label will be produced by RETROGAMEZ and already has a market share in the British market, mainly through sales on Ebay. This sales method via the Internet is being developed with the hope of selling 50-100 copies of each Software-Title. With prices ranging from 3 to 5 Euros the programmer is promised 25% of the money taken. In principle this sounds good, whether it will work we simply don't know. Anyone who is interested in selling his programs can try it at http://www.retrogamez.co.uk/
Source: news.raww.org

New Products from Sinclair
No, not a computer. Sir Clive has invented a motor for wheelchair users. But they already exist or? Of course, we know that. Sir Clive also didn't invent the computer, but he did find a way to make the computer cheap enough for anyone. And he has used this concept now for Wheelchair users. For "only" 357,79 brit. pounds you can get hold of one at http://www.sinclair-research.co.uk/system/index.html
Source: Comp.Sys.Sinclair

NEWS.RAWW.ORG
RAW.ORG is dead, NEWS.RAWW.ORG lives. This well known meeting place for the scene on the Internet has changed it's home address and at the same time used the opportunity to redesign it's complete format. It's worthwhile taking a look at this site.
Source: Icabod/Raww

News in Brief

MB03-News

If we can believe what 8BC is saying publicly then the MB03 will definitely be produced The name of the Interface is not yet known, MB03 is only the working name.
As a new addition the general sound card is to be included. This is already used in many Russian programs and there are a number of MB02 users who have build this card into there systems. This will also allow the processor of the General sound card (Z80 with 12 MHZ) to be used as a Co-Processor, which will of course increase the power of the system.
Just waiting isn't here the best policy, if your interested then contact us so that we can report to 8BC on the interest. The interface can only be built when there is a large enough interest to make it worthwhile.
Source: Martin Blazek, 8BC

Broken Sword

A new roll playing game is supposed to be appearing on the market. BROKEN SWORD is the title of a Gameboy-Advance series game with a growing following. And now this game should be appearing for the Spectrum. There will be a version for the MB02/03 and Spectrum 128. Those users who only have a 48K won't be able to enjoy this complex adventure. Though they have given a lot of thought to the languages, no less than 6 languages are to be included, and one of them is German. We will keep you informed.
Source: Martin Blazek, 8BC

PC-Software for the Spectrum

2 new programs have appeared which run on a PC but which are useful for the Spectrum. The first is a graphic editor with the name BGE 3.05, which is not yet complete, at least not yet in English. The second is completely new, a sound editor on the PC which will produce AY-Sounds. This sounds really interesting and I'm sure we will be looking more closely at it. Anyone who doesn't want to wait, can certainly get hold of the alpha version from the internet: http://bulba.at.kz/vortex_e.htm . You will need a special packer for .7z files. But you can get this as well at http://bulba.at.kz/7zTool.exe
Souce: SPC-Clubmagazine 157/158

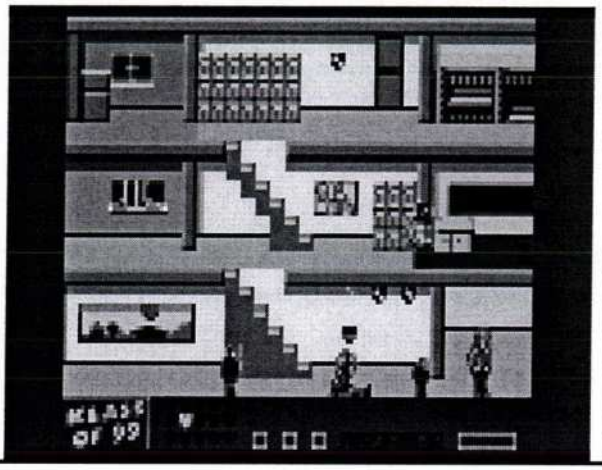
Virtual Net

The Schneider (Amstrad) CPC has a circuit, something called a Virtual Net to allow a computer network to be created. Yes, we know that the Interface 1 also has a Network, as does the Disciple. The problem is that these interfaces as a rule don't allow any other disk interfaces on the Spectrum and so are unusable for Opus and MB02 users. In general it's very difficult to get your hands on these interfaces, so the question is, would it be possible to convert the Virtual Net for use on the Spectrum and somehow switch it so that it didn't interfere with any other Interface.
The article is available on the Internet and I hope that a number of readers will look at how we could implement this interfac. http://www.geocities.com/SiliconValley/Park/6129/start.htm
Source: Christof Odenthal

News in Brief

Class of 99

It's simply unbelievable how much Spectrum software is in the planning. Class of 99 is a remake of the classic Skool Daze. James Kay is being support in the project by Rich J., who programmed the original. You can wonder at some of the screen shots on the Internet site http://www.jmk1.freeserve.co.uk/klassof.htm . Though it may be some time until it is finished.
Source: LCD



Sinclair Extended Basic

A preview version of the project by Andrew Owen is already available to download from the WOS site: Sinclair Extended Basic.
Andrew is reworking the Spectrum-Rom, making a number of improvements and including new possibilities. The actual version includes:
Coloured Cursors – like the 128K but better
No „Extend Mode" any more, except for Colour-Codes
Simplified Keyboard – any command or symbol can be reached with the combination of only 2 keys
Tokenizer: Tex can be changed into Keywords
Detokenizer: Keywords can be changed back to plain text
Error handling – Cursor jumps to the position of the error and a BEEP tone is sounded
Cursor can also move up and down
New Font with 8 extra characters (ASCII 24-31)
So with that you will never have to search for words on the Spectrum again. Further improvements are planned. The address for the download is: http://www.worldofspectrum.org/sinclairbasic/sebasic.html
Source: Andrew Owen

AY-Riders

A number of Spectrum sound programmers have got together in a new music group called „AY-Riders". They make their music not exclusively but also using the support of the Spectrum and you can freely download it and burn it onto CD. The internet site for the group is http://www.ayriders.prv.pl
Source: Yerzmyey/H-PRG

New Graphic-Animation from LCD

LCD has created a new graphic mode, which allows you to watch large animations on a Spectrum with a hard-disk. The pictures are reduced to their RGB colours. Which means that for each Spectrum picture 3 speccy screens are used. Sounds like memory wasting as on a PC, but the results are worth it. You can of course also see it on an emulator: http://members.chello.at/ursula.chmielewski/bmp2scr/RGB.zip (Watch out it's over 4 MB).
Source: Yerzmyey/H-PRG

So what is LCD really doing...

With LCD everything has not gone silent even if he has stopped his activities with SUC, which is reason enough to interview him:

1) Hi Leszek. Ever since you gave up the SCENE+ to Mirko you have become something of a young pensioner. What are you actually doing now...in the speccy world?

Hi! So I'm a pensioner am I... Yes, there well there were and still are some health problems on my side
The right eye causes me some problems. Even though the cloudyness in the lens disappeared some months ago, I still have some difficulties to see things clearly. My doctor is of the opinion that it's caused by too much pressure in the right eye.
But this doesn't mean I've given up on the Speccy, as many of you know I have been working with high pressure on BMP2SCR 2.00 Professional, and after I have released it I will add a number of additional features. Then I'll find some time for the ZX Game- and Demo scene. But at the moment there simply isn't enough time to do more, even my favourite project has been left on the sidelines at the moment because of BMP2SCR Pro. A new menu system for S+ has been left in the drawer for the last year and is waiting to be completed, and I plan to get on with it as soon as I've finished with BMP2SCR Pro.
So from the current point of view and after 50 issues of S+ I've become an old age pensioner but that doesn't mean that my time in the Scene has really come to and end.

2) Have you ever regretted giving up SCENE+ ?

Yes! As I said not everything has developed the way I would have wished, but even though Mirko is taking SCENE+ in another direction from that which I had planned I know with him that it's in good hands. In many ways he has brought new blood to the whole thing, after the 50 issues that I was myself responsible for, whereby I've often asked myself whether I really wanted to continue with it for the rest of my life. In reality I thought before completing each issue that I should stop and move on to something else. It took the problems with my sight to force me to take the decisive step. That I've now got more time for other projects is simply an enjoyable side effect.

3) Since Mirko has taken over SCENE+ then there are screens/pictures but no longer the screen-collections from LCD. Will we see them again in the future?

Certainly. Florian has often asked me about this. There will definitely be screen collections in the future when BMP2SCR is finished, perhaps not in every issue but they will appear again. Perhaps I'll then even have the time to manually work on the small errors which occur with automatic conversion. As well as that BMP2SCR Pro will have all of the functions which Mirko had on his wish list, so he will also be able to produce his own pictures and won't have any more excuses ;-).

4) BMP2SCR is happily being used by more and more people. How far will the program develop? Which possibilities are you thinking about at the moment, that you haven't realised yet?

BMP2SCR Pro is as you have noticed my main project at the moment and this Pro version will include a lot of functionality. There were complaints that BMP2SCR could only load BMP´s with 24 bit colour, that's changed in the Pro version: BMP, JPG and PNG can be loaded in almost any size and colour depth, added to that are functions which can expand or contract the picture in the x or y directions, and there is an automatic scaling function which can fit the picture to the Spectrum screen. I've also simplified the control of the program, the zoom cut-out in the screen editor is bigger and is drawn more quickly. New functions included in Painter allow you to redraw PC pictures more effectively, whereby the Spectrum colour can be faded out and you can see the original PC picture underneath. There is also automatic Attribute-Optimising, there is also an undo pipeline which was requested by Mirko. As well as this there is a Sprite and a Tile editor which can handle the Assembler-Export function. Even if the picture block exceeds the 64x64 maximum pixel Sprite/Tile size it can still be exported as a window, whereby the window function in Painter can do more than ever before. The Chunk-Converter now has a Customizer so that you can match the data output to your own player. The AVI conversion has been speeded up and also allows the output as raw data for HDD-Systems on the Spectrum.
In practical terms the program has been completely rewritten and through that improved and optimised.
What I am considering for a later version is a Map-Editor to create complete cards out of tiles, of course with Assembler-Data export, even more graphic modes, and an SCR-compressor.
In any case it will be the ultimate creation set for game graphics, which will help to create even better games.
Anyway I think that fans of BMP2SCR won't be dissapointed, when they get their hands on the program. I'm only still not satisfied with the size of the EXE file and the minimum system requirements.

5) Can we expect Speccy programs from you again the future?

Well, almost certainly, Yes, or do you really believe that after James McKay has released a Demo-version
of „Klass of 99", that I'm going to give up? No! New programs are appearing: Sid the Spider, Castlevania ZX, Flash Beer, Egghead III, More tea vicar and lots of others are certainly in preparation. This is where I have to show that you can't ignore the German speaking area. Perhaps not with Demo's but with games. Certainly, when it comes to graphic converters then Austria, thanks to BMP2SCR, and Germany with CONGO have the lead.
It's certainly not true that I have changed over to the opposition PC camp, even though there is a lot of motivation to write games for the PC I prefer to concentrate on a system where there aren't so many new programs appearing.

6) It was of course reckless of you to take flight from the SUC torture chamber (see the SUC-Demo from Cats Eye...). But aren't you afraid that Mirko will put you back in there, if you don't send him more programs soon?

I think you're mixing me up with IX-Terminator. But yes, I am worried that I'm going to be the next victim of the torture chamber. As I said as soon as BMP2SCR Pro is finished I'm going to concentrate completely on the Spectrum. The new Menu version is the first thing that I'm going to write on my banner, after all I did promise Mirko at the last meet.
Other than that I have to say that I'm not the only one who can write programs. Under the readers of SUC-Session there are a large number of competent programmers, but only Odin alone is active, so people program something, even if it's only a Pacman clone.

7) Aren't you sometimes confused with the inventor of the flat screen display (LCD)?

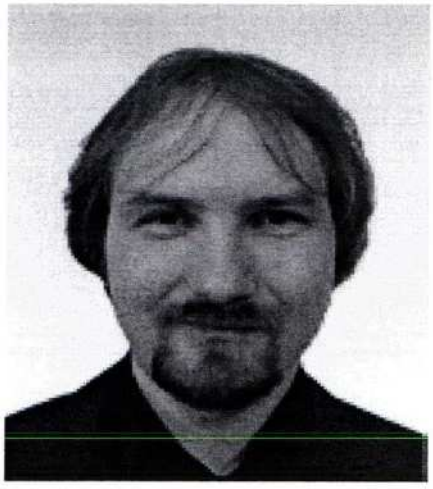
No no no, don´t laugh! No please, that's what happens when a number of manufacturers are so dumb that they write on their display's „LCD Display" which in reality means „Liquid Crystal Display Display", only a few write it correctly as "LC-Display". So this causes the mix-up, but I just find it funny and am not angry about it. Up to now this mix-up hasn't been embarrassing, tragic or involved any serious consequences.

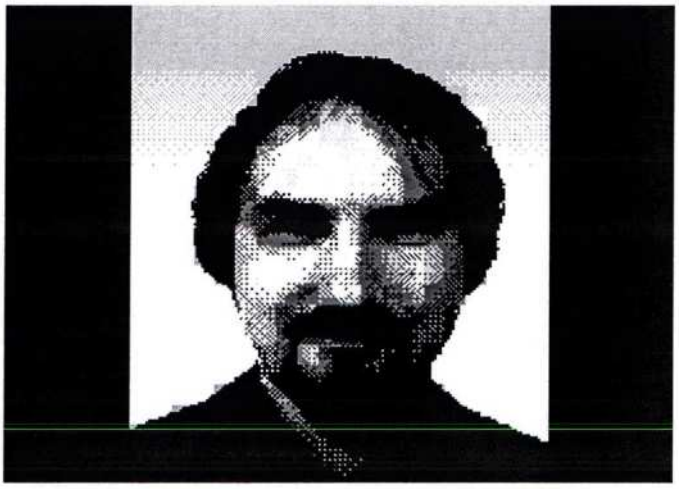
8) Are we going to see you at any of the Spectrum meets this year?

You will see me at the Forever-Quatro meet, I'm going there with Florian and Thomas (not Eberle!), then I'll have to see about the SUC main meeting, and to close the year I want to go to Zlincon and get drunk again with Jaxon Hollis.
But we'll have to wait and see how it goes financially and job wise, I can't promise anything.

Greetings to all Spectrum Users

LCD

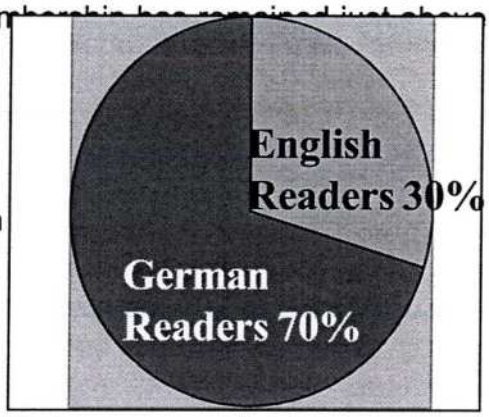




S SAVE U IF C CONT S SAVE T RAND A NEW T RAND I INPUT S SAVE T RAND I INPUT C CONT S SAVE

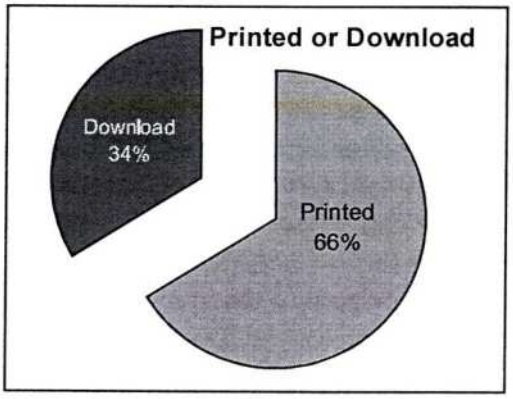
This is the first SUC-Session issue of the year and so time for some statistics. Unfortunately we don't have any comparison figures but never the less I think that we have some interesting numbers to look at.

The SUC and with it the club magazines SUC-Session and SCENE+ have experienced something of a rebirth. Ever since the beginning of SUC-Session back in 1994 and the takeover of the remaining members of the Spectrum-User-Club Wuppertal, the number of members has been stagnant and with it the number of readers. From 200 addresses available at the time of the takeover we managed to win 60 members who wanted to continue with us. In spite of a number of new members over the years there has always been a number of people leaving the club so that the membership has remained just above the 50 level, that is until the year 2002.

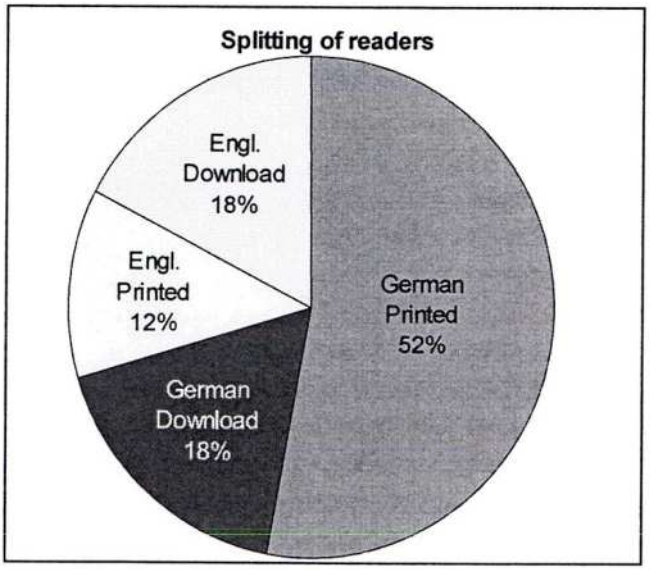


Not only the English edition, but also the German edition produced a large increase in readership during the year, so that we now have 74 readers + a number of free issues for publishers of other magazines. The distribution of our readers looks something like this:

52 readers subscribe to the German edition and 22 the English.



Of these a total of 49 like to have their magazine in paper form while 25 prefer the quicker and cheaper download in PDF-Format.



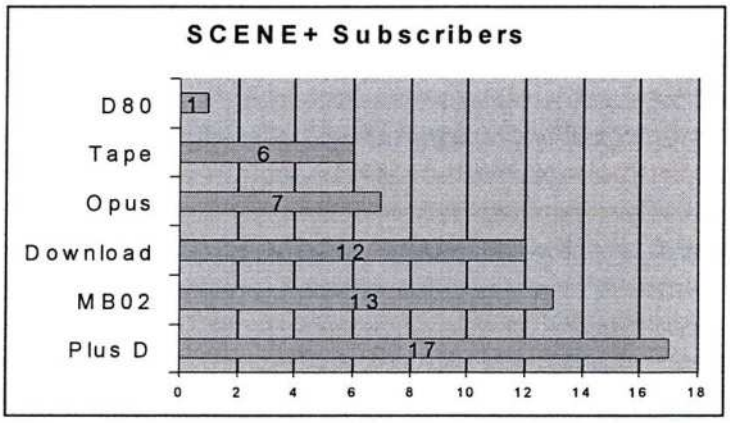
The exact numbers are:

German printed magazine:	39 Readers
German Download:	13 Readers
English printed magazine:	9 Readers
English Download:	13 Readers

On the basis of these statistics it's possible to say that the download format is better favoured by the English readers even better than the printed version. In reality it's the new readers who because of the cheaper price tend to choose the PDF-Format to get started, mostly without SCENE+ . And as almost all of the readers of the English edition are new readers, this means that the relationship paper to download is over proportionally distorted.

We have one last statistic and that is the distribution of the various diskette systems. In general it doesn't mean that a user only has this diskette system but that this is the one he/she uses most of the time, otherwise they wouldn't subscribe to SCENE+ in this format. It should though not be forgotten that we don't support all of the diskette formats so that it is possible that some have chosen the cassette or TAP-Download, because we, for example don't support Beta-Disk (TR-DOS). It would be great if these users could contact us so that we would know if we should offer any additional diskette formats. At the moment the distribution over the formats we offer looks like this:

Plus D/Disciple	17 Readers
MB02+	13 Readers
Tap-Download	12 Readers
Opus	7 Readers
Kassette	6 Readers
D80/Didaktik	1 Readers



Yes, with the format D80/Didaktik something needs to happen or we won't be able to offer it any more. But at the moment we still do in the hope that we may get some new readers from the Czech and Slovakia area. In general I think there should be at least 5 readers of a particular format for it to be worthwhile producing the magazine in it. The statistic is distorted slightly by one user who subscribes to 2 formats. And that's why the number of diskette issues is different from the number of people who have subscribed to SCENE+.

In total we are very pleased with the development of the club and the magazine. We have a just about 30% increase in membership and already this year 2 more readers than in December. Never the less we are of course hoping for even more members. Especially with the English edition we see a lot of potential, just 22 is nothing compared with the large number of users world wide. Which is why we would like to ask users to do some advertising for the club. Inform your Spectrum friends and relations about us, let them know that we exist because most of them simply don't know that we are available.

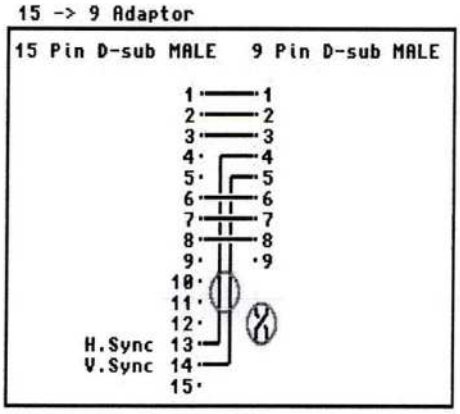
So we will see, whether we can print an even better statistic next year.

HARDWARE-Corner

Amiga RGB - > PC VGA Interface

The history: The product announcement for a VGA-box in the last issue has inspired Björn Eriksson to look behind the scenes at the way the signals are converted. In so doing he stumbled on an interesting AMIGA article, which can't be simply translated to the Spectrum but never-the-less does a good job of explaining the technical requirements. Here is the article:

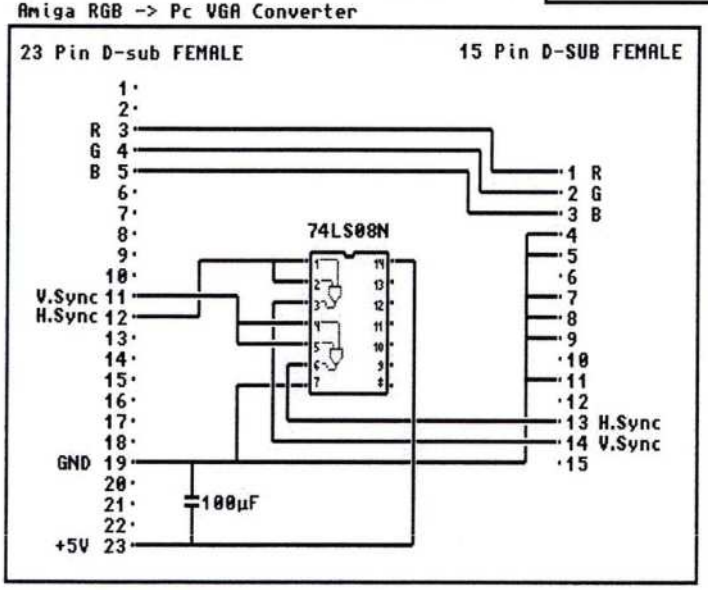
„What's that then?", you could be excused for thinking. The title says it it all, it's a simple hardware solution for the serious Amiga user to allow almost anyone to connect a standard VGA-Monitor to the AMIGA.
You might ask „How do you do that?". The trick is quite simple, that is when you know how! When the PC-Monitor needs a HIGH Sync signal the AMIGA delivers a LOW Sync signal and vice versa. To get these signals to work together we simply have to invert them. The simplest method of doing this is to use an integrated circuit with the name 74LS08N, this contains 4 gates (anyone who knows out integrated circuits already know what they now have to do):
Gate 1 has it's inputs on PIN 1 and 2 and output on PIN 3. If you connect pin 1 and 2 together then the output will be the inverse of the input signal (high will give low and low will give high). Phew...A picture is better than 2063 bytes... a look at the diagram shown here will explain everything.
„is it possible to make it simpler?" Yes!! Let someone who has experience with electronics do the soldering as shown in the diagram as most circuits don't survive a 5V shock very well.
Comment: The author of these documents and diagrams takes no responsibility if anything should go wrong, but this solution is quite simple to duplicate.
„And another comment?" Certainly! The adapter shown in the drawing has a note with it saying that the cable has to be crossed. A friend (A4000-User) of the authors (A1200-User) uses HIS original VGA-Converter, but had to make up an adapter cable. The cable is used to convert the 15 pin (RGB-output) to a 9 pin (VGA-Plug). It can also be used with the converter I have described. If you use it with the converter which I have described than a crossover is not necessary. This is taken care of in the converter.
„Is that the end of the article?" You ask hopefully? OK, this hardware solution was created by TranXeye/Nova Lythern. There are other solutions, but I think this the best and I hope you agree...



15->9 ADAPTOR
USE TOGETHER WITH THE ORIGINAL C= AMIGA TO MULTISYNC. CONVERTER...

AMIGA RGB -> PC VGA CONVERTER
CAN BE USED AS CONVETER BETWEEN AN AMIGA RGB PORT AND PC MONITOR.

NOTE : THE CONVERTER BELOW HAS BEEN TESTED WITHOUT THE ADAPTOR SINCE THE USED MONITOR HAD A STANDARD 15 PIN SOCKET. THE ADAPTOR IS USED ONLY TO CONVERT THE 15 PINS DOWNTO 9 PINS. SINCE THE CONVERTER CROSSES THE SYNC'S, YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS IN THE ADAPTOR. THOUGH, USING THE ADAPTOR ALONE MIGHT REQUIRE CROSSING OF THE SYNC'S.



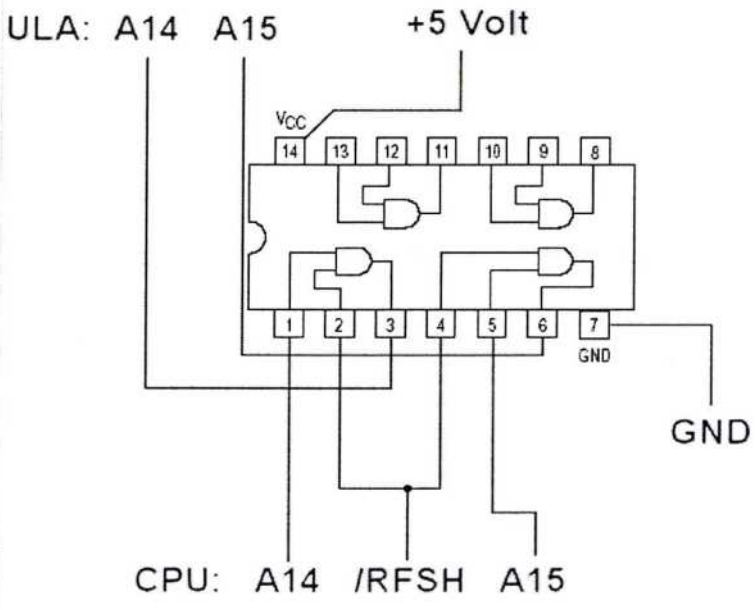
Nova Lythern
TRANXEYE

MAKE AND USE AT YOUR OWN RISK.

ULA-Fixer

Ahhhh, long time no see... No, I don't mean since I wrote the last article, instead not since the Hardware corner first appeared in SUC-Session. Now, as Thomas has promoted me to be the new Marketing director, I feel I must do something once again to boost the subscriber numbers skyward... What could be better for that than a short term revival of the good old Hardware-Corner... and present something everyone has been looking for.

The ULA-Fixer is just the sort of device people have been looking for, after all it's often the Russian demo's which are damaged. You see the so called ULA-Snow and/or double contours, when the I (Interupt) Register of the Z80 CPU is pointing to the slow memory under 32768, which is also used by the ULA to construct the screen image. Now Sinclair gave the chips a certain priority which doesn't exist in some of the clones, I'd just like to mention for example the well known Pentagon. A result of this is that the Russians (deliberately ?) set the I-Register to a value smaller than 128 which turns the viewing of a demo for users of the original hardware into an unpleasant experience. This is an impossible situation which a number of them had been made aware of, unfortunately very few of them have done anything about it.
The only solution available to us Europeans is to build in a ULA-Fixer.
I had the good fortune a number of years ago to buy a Czech ZX Spectrum 128+ which already contained a ULA-Fixer probably build by 8BC. Though the lads were clever and had erased the chips identity so that it would be difficult to copy the circuit. However after months of research in the LCD-Lab I managed to solve the puzzle of the chip and work out how it functions.
It was a bog standard 74LS08 which gives the priority to the ULA. Then I just drew up a circuit diagram to make the duplication of the circuit as easy as possible. The modification works fine in the Spectrum +2, 128+ and 48K, I haven't had a chance to try it in a +2A/+3. It's only necessary to cut to printed circuit connections on the Spectrum main board, and that means cutting A14 und A15 between the CPU and the ULA, and then to connect them correctly to the 74LS08, it is also pretty useful to connect the /RFSH signal from the Z80 and a source of +5Volts and ground. If the Spectrum survives this surgery then there is nothing more to stand in the way of enjoying all of those super demo's.
In case anyone is thinking of making the modification switchable then it's important to use bounce free switches otherwise switching it on or off may cause a the Spectrum to crash.

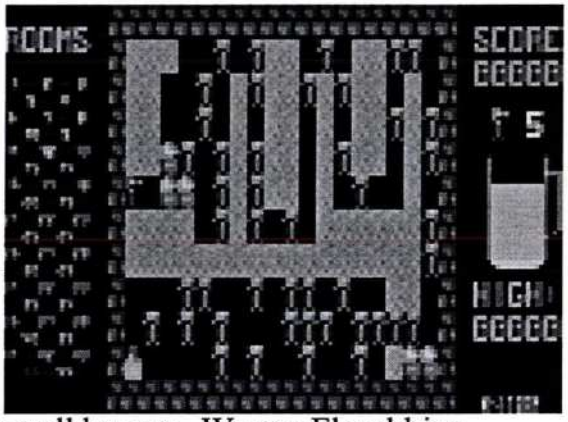


ULA Fixer, drawn by LCD

Disclaimer: neither LCD nor Sintech take any responsible for damage caused by this modification to the hardware. The circuit diagram has been created as carefully as possible and is to the best of our knowledge correct.

FUTURE SHOCKS

We used to have regular software reports, as of course there was a lot more commercial software being released back then. Today, nearly all of the software is released as PD and is published in SCENE+. These programs are presented in short form in the contents information for SCENE+, further information is normally not necessary as most readers either take SCENE+ or know where they can get the magazine.



Now and again we report on a classic or in the „Future Shocks" column provide some information about what could be expected in the future.

But I'm especially happy to be able to report today on a new commercial Spectrum title: FLASH BEER TRIOLOGY.

Does anyone recognise the title...wasn't there something...Yes. The title is based on the in Germany well known „Werner Flaschbier Comic", the spelling has just been changed a bit so that the English can get their tongues around it. The first software support for this comic was available many years ago for the C-64. But Spectrum fans could only stare at a blank screen. The years have gone by and in 2002 the Hungarian WSS-Team decided to convert the game.

But wait a minute...TRIOLOGY means that it has to be 3 games. And so it is, they have produced 3 titles:

- The First Challenge
- The way of the beer
- Castle of beer

All 3 titles seem to be a mixture of Manic Miner and Boulder Dash, use plenty of colour and are a must for Werner-Fans. But everyone else can be enthused by the idea alone, that in 2003 there is a professionally made game available to buy complete with inlay and description.

You can fill in the order form on the Internet by going to the side http://www.c-system.hu/edy/wss/flb/index.html. The price for the Trilogy is 5,00 Euros. At the moment they are only taking orders and will wait until they have some ideas about the numbers before beginning production. The newest information we have received is that they plan to release the game on a ROM-Cartridge for the Interface 2. A super idea.

For those who don't have an Internet connection, you can contact us and we will willingly take over the ordering for any interested user. Tel. 0711-775033

I ordered the game for myself long ago and will of course provide a detailed report on it as soon as I receive it.
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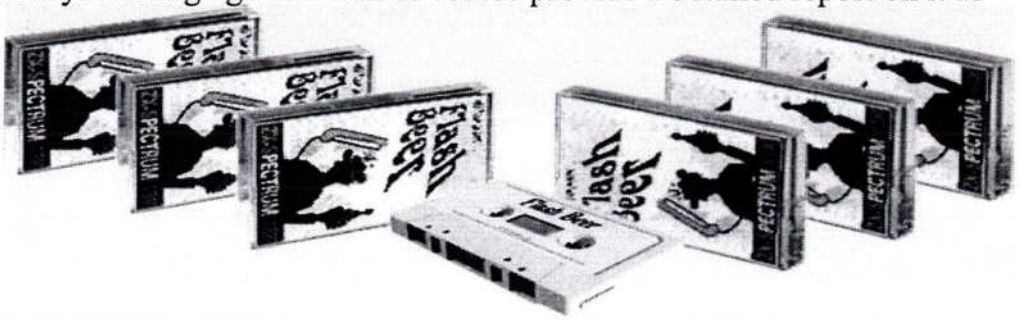

Events Calendar

The good idea of having a calendar of events came from Wolfgang Haller of the SPC. Even though the late arrive of the magazine may make it difficult to use some of the information provided, but it could be important to maintain an overview of what is available. As long as the organisers make the necessary material available then we will of course continue to print reports and diagrams showing the route to the evene etc. whenever possible:

21. – 23. March 2003 ZX Team Meet in Dietges/Rhön near Fulda. A cosy meeting of Spectrum fans with the possibility of overnighting. Booking and information peter@zx81.de . For all of those who can't attend in person a virtual participation via Internet is possible. More info under www.zx81.de

26/27. April 2003 3. Combined Spectrum- and SAM-days of the SPC and the Sinclair-gg in Urmond. The event will again be in the hotel „van der Falk" in the Mauritiuslaan 65, NL-6129 EL Urmond. Entry if free. More information is available on the internet under http://www.hobby.nl/~sinclair-gg/

14. June 2003 Meeting of the HCC-Sinclair-gg, Netherlands in Bunnik. More info on http://www.hobby.nl/~sinclair-gg/duits/treffen.htm

28./29. June 2003 Z-Fest – The CPM-Experience in Fuldabrück-Knickhagen. Description at http://www.z-fest.de/

13./14. Sept. 2003 Spectrology in Wittenberg. More detailed information will be published nearer the time in the club magazine.

20. September 2003 Meeting of the HCC-Sinclair-gg, Netherlands in Bunnik. More info at http://www.hobby.nl/~sinclair-gg/duits/treffen.htm

Extraction from our pricelist:

Neu:			
PC-Power Supply with voltages for 2 Floppies and MB02			36,00 •
MB02-Printercable			13,00 •
IDE-Kit für MB02+ (ask for Harddisks and CD-Roms)			26,00 •
Spectrum +2A, new and in original box, complete			219,00 •
Didaktik Kompakt 48k			154,00 • KS
Diskinterface D80 + Flopppy for Didaktik or Spectrum			111,00 • KS
B-Drive for D80			60,00 • KS
Proface AT Extern (Keyboardi nterface to connect PC-Keyboard)			69,00 • KS
Proface AT intern			62,00 • KS
Melodik AY-Soundbox without case			21,00 • KS
Floppy drive (1860k for MB02, 720k for Opus, 780k f. +D) state type required			24,00 •
Power supply for +2A/B and +3 or for +2 (also 48k und 128k) state type			29,00 •
Floppy cable for 2 drives			4,00 •
Multiface 128 (also works on the 48k)			26,00 •
Multiface +3			46,00 •
Ink ribbon original STAR LC 10 double pack, 2 ribbons			11,00 •
Plus 3 cassette cable			9,90 •
+2/+3 Joystick Adapter			9,90 •
Spectrum +2 Lightpen			36,00 •
Spectrum +3 Lightpen			27,00 •
Silver paper for ZX Printer			5,00 •
Phaser-Pistole mit Software (Tape or +3)			19,00 •
Ersatzteile:			
+3 drive belt			2,00 •
Keyboard-Sticker for Spectrum / PC-Emulatoren			8,00 •
Keyboard membrane 48k			11,00 •
Keyboard membrane Spectrum +/128k, new Qualität, no aging, UV and heat resistent			21,00 •
4116 Memory IC			2,00 •
4464 Memory IC			3,00 •
Gebraucht:			
Sinclair ZX Spectrum 128k, complete with all cables			129,00 •
Sinclair ZX Spectrum +2, complete with all cables			79,00 •
Sinclair ZX Spectrum +2A, complete with all cables			69,00 •
Sinclair ZX Spectrum +3, built in 3" drive, complete with all cables			99,00 •
Sinclair Spectrum 48k komplett (Gummi), complete with all cables			64,00 •
Sinclair Spectrum 48k + komplett, complete with all cables			64,00 •
+3 Laufwerk (checked)			29,00 •
Interface I			69,00 •
Microdrive			25,00 •
Plus D Clone, without case,with 3,5" Floppy, cable + Power supply			129,00 •
Opus Discovery Diskinterface with 1 x 720k Drive			119,00 •
Joystickinterface	1-Port 3,00 •	2-Port	11,00 •
Joystick (various to choose froml)			2,50 •
Sinclair SJS-Joystick (+2/+3)			6,00 •
Microdrive Cartridges (ex-Software)			3,50 •
3" Disks for Spectrum +3 (ex-Software, 5 in one Pack)			19,00 •

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